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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/772,801	01/30/2001	Diane McGhee	20520/1 (S-8332-CIP)	1002

7590 11/05/2002

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EXAMINER

WILLIAMSON, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1616

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/772,801

Applicant(s)

MCGHEE ET AL.

Examiner

Michael A. Williamson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Pending Claims

The pending claims in the instant application are 1-30. The independent claims in this application are 1, 12 and 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The recitation of one or more polyalkyl diols and one or more alkyl diols constitutes new matter. Applicant has support for R² alcohol selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₁₂ monohydric alcohols, C₁₋₁₂ diol such as alkyl glycols and C₁₋₁₂ polyalkyldiols (see page 6, line 33 to page 7, line 6). There lacks support for one or more. There also lacks first and second

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solutions comprising polyalkyl diol. Additionally, polyalkyl diol is misspelled in both instances.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The rejection of claims 1, 12-14, 18, 20-27, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cartmell et al. (U.S. Patent 5,160,328) is maintained for reasons of record in paper number 5, paragraph 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The rejection of claims 1-17, 19 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cartmell et al. (U.S. Patent 5,160,328) in view of Hennink et al. (U.S. Patent 5,219,325) is maintained for reasons of record in paper number 5, paragraph 5.

Double Patenting

5. The rejection of claims 1-30 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-75 of U.S. Patent No. 6,180,132 has been maintained for reasons of record in paper number 5, paragraph 7.

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Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed August 5, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the prior art fails to teach or suggest a self supporting hydrogel (see page 3, 1st full paragraph through page 4, 1st full paragraph, page 4, 3rd full paragraph and page 5, 2nd full paragraph through page 6, 4th full paragraph). The prior art teaches a thickness of 600 micrometers to 1500 micrometers which is within the range of the instant invention which cites a thickness of 0.01-1 inch (254 -25400 microns). Applicant further argues that the prior art teaches a range different from that of the instant claimed invention (see page 4, 2nd full paragraph). It would have been within the purview of the skilled artisan to optimize the invention. Additionally, a change in size in the absence of a change in function does not impart patentability.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP §

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706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

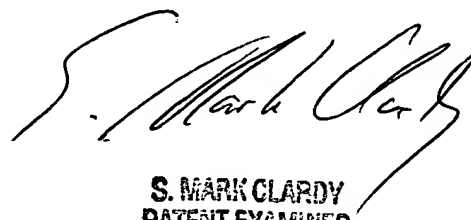
8.

Crystal Mall 1 Facsimile Center

A facsimile center has been established in Crystal Mall 1, room 7C10. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:45 AM to 4:45 PM. The telecopier number for accessing the facsimile machine is (703) 308-4556. The new location should be used in all instances when faxing any correspondence to Group 1600. Use of the new Crystal Mall 1 center will facilitate rapid delivery of materials to the Group. The faxing of all papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 O.G. 30 (November 15, 1989).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Michael A. Williamson whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

Williamson021104
November 4, 2002


S. MARK CLARDY
PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 1235 1616